



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School
Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

The Government has clarified its list of key workers and vulnerable children which can be found in the following link. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

It is important to note that the latest scientific research and Government advice in this document is that **all children, where possible, should be at home to prevent the spread of Coronavirus**. This is why the exceptional decision has been made to close all schools. **It is imperative to note that all children will be safest at home from the Coronavirus and the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread** and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Therefore I need to ask you to consider that even if you are a key worker, if there is someone else in your family that can look after your child, such as a spouse, provisions are made for them to stay at home.

Parents must understand that the school will not operate as a learning facility. We will be repurposed as childcare each day and parents should consider the impact this will have on their child for a potentially sustained period of time.

At Ancaster, we recognise the need to support key workers whose work is essential and **where there is no alternative childcare arrangements** to guarantee safety. However, the Government have issued the following Key Principles which should be considered by every key worker parent;

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them. **Currently this will be at our school. This may change if we cannot provide sufficient and appropriate staffing.**
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.

If you feel you meet the criteria and having weighed up potential risks of sending your child into the school environment, please complete the Pupil Registration Form. Due to this information only being readily available this morning, we are working as fast as we can to process provisions for next week based on the availability of our staffing when balanced against those who are self-isolating/vulnerable and apologise for the short timescales.

Please DO NOT ring school today to enquire if you have a place as this will only slow down the processing of the forms. We aim to call you today to tell you if we can accommodate your child but be mindful that this could be after school closes tonight.

Ancaster Church of England Primary School
Mercia Drive Grantham NG32 3QQ

Tel: 01400 230871 Email: enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk Web: www.ancasterprimary.org.uk
Head Teacher: Mr Sam Eden



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For safeguarding and planning reasons we **must** know which pupils are intending to come into school during the school closure. Once we have clarification as to who these pupils are, we will send families affected a letter with a further form attached that will indicate the days your child/children will be in school and will include information regarding our expectations surrounding, behaviour, uniform and food.

In order for pupils to attend school on **Monday 23 March 2020**, this form must be returned by email to admin@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk by **1pm on Friday 20 March 2020**.

For replies received after this time, pupils will be given an alternative start date.

Please remember that my priority has to be the safety of my staff and the children here at Ancaster. It is a possibility that even though you may qualify as a key worker, due to high numbers of requests, or lack of staff, we may not be able to accommodate you which I know could be disappointing and we want to reassure you that we are doing everything in our power to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.

I ask that you are patient and kind at this time and remember that we are all trying to support each other to combat this dreadful virus.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Sam Eden
Headteacher